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NUMBER OF WAGE-EARNERS IN MANUFACTURING ESTABLISH-MENTS IN MASSACHUSETTS, 1914–21

In the December, 1921, issue of this Journal, there appeared an article¹ by Dr. Ernest S. Bradford in which was included a chart with accompanying text having reference to fluctuations in the number of employees in representative factories in the states of New York and Wisconsin during the period 1914–21. The interest in the subject of unemployment at this time is so great that it justifies the

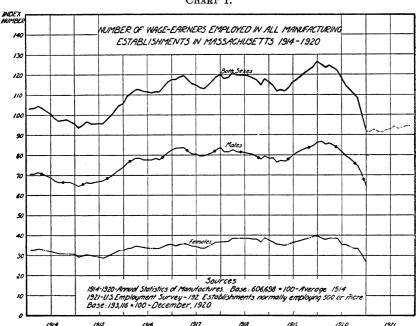


CHART I.

publication of the two accompanying charts which will serve to supplement the chart in Dr. Bradford's article.

Chart I shows variations in the number of wage-earners employed in all manufacturing establishments in Massachusetts during the period 1914–20, as determined by the annual censuses of manufactures taken in that state. Separate graphs are shown for male and for female wage-earners. The census of manufactures covering the year 1921 will not be completed for several months, and it is therefore not possible to furnish data covering all manufacturing establishments in the state for that year. The State Department of Labor and Industries, however, has coöperated with the United States Employment Service in obtaining employment data from 192 manufacturing establishments in Massa-

^{1&}quot; Methods Used in Measuring Unemployment."

chusetts, normally employing 500 or more, and covering in December, 1920, 193,116 wage-earners. The dotted portion of the graph (both sexes) for the year 1921 represents the trend of employment in these 192 representative establishments.

If comparison is made with the chart prepared by Dr. Bradford it will be found that there is a very close correspondence in the fluctuations of the graphs for the states of New York, Wisconsin, and Massachusetts. This fact is of particular importance in that it indicates that whether or not the data cover merely a large number of representative establishments, as in the case of New York and Wisconsin, or all manufacturing establishments, as in the case of Massachusetts, the index numbers are directly comparable.

Chart II includes graphs for the four principal industries and a reproduction, on the same scale, of the chart for all manufacturing establishments. It will be noted that the fluctuations of the graphs representing employment in the several industries during the period 1914–20 vary widely from the fluctuations of the graphs representing employment in all industries, although in general it may be said that war-time demands and the demand for manufactured products during the latter part of 1919 and the early part of 1920 were reflected in the employment figures for each of the industries.

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MEDIANS OF WOMEN'S EARNINGS IN FOUR STATES

The Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor has recently completed the field work on the fourth of a series of investigations of wages of women in various states. The investigations were undertaken with several different aims in view, with resulting complications in the methods of treating the material.

It is not the policy of the Women's Bureau to go into any state to make this sort of survey without a definite invitation from state authorities or from organizations prominent enough to be able to guarantee adequate coöperation and a satisfactory use of the material. Thus the investigation in Kansas was made at the request of the State Industrial Commission, which desired information upon which to base wage awards. In Georgia the investigation was made at the request of several different organizations, including the State Federation of Women's Clubs and the League of Women Voters; in Rhode Island, at the request of the Governor and the State Consumers' League; and in Kentucky, at the request of the Governor and the State Federation of Women's Clubs.

To present figures which will fill the needs of organizations such as these is one of the functions of the Women's Bureau, but an equally important function is to add to the rather scant statistical material which is now available regarding wages of women in industry. The satisfactory adjustment of these two functions presents many difficulties from the standpoint of the person interested in statistics.

The following figures give the outstanding facts as disclosed by the material gathered in the four states: